

Average number of days required to obtain a 1st class certificate 78.
 Average number of days required to obtain a 2nd class certificate 65.
 Adjutant, Lieut. Colonel Denison, Brigade Major.

Drill Instructor, Sergeant Major Cantlin.
 The above school closed, at Toronto, on the 31st May last.

I cannot close this report without bringing specially forward the march made by the Toronto Field Battery, commanded by Captain Gray, from the Old Fort to the camp at Holland Landing, and also the return march, a distance of thirty eight miles, whose report marked "D," I beg leave to enclose, giving the details; it shows what a Field Battery of the force can do when commanded by a smart and intelligent officer.

I have the honor to be, Sir,
 Your most obedient servant,
 W. S. DUNE, Lt.-Colonel,
 Deputy Adjut. General,
 Military District No. 2.

[A]
 DUNLO, BEACHVILLE,
 13th July, 1874.

Sir,—I have the honor to submit the following report of the Brigade Camp assembled at Niagara under my command on the 23rd June last, in accordance with District Order of the 11th ult. The force was comprised of the following corps:—

Corps.	Officers.	N. C. Officers and men	Total.	Horses.
Staff.....	10	6	16	5
2nd Regiment Cavalry	30	197	227	217
Hamilton Field Battery	3	71	74	55
Welland Field Battery	3	72	75	67
13th Battalion.....	16	281	297	4
19th do	12	252	264	4
20th do	12	232	244	4
33rd do	15	82	97	1
38th do	15	94	109	1
44th do	19	262	281	4
77th do	15	262	277	4
Totals.....	139	1678	1817	351

The health of the several corps comprising the brigade was good, and neither accident nor cases of serious illness occurred during the continuance of the camp. Seven men had to be sent home, owing to illness contracted prior to marching from company headquarters, which was not discovered until the medical inspection to which every regiment was subjected the day after arrival. In this connection, and with a view to saving the country from unnecessary expenses, I would urgently recommend that commanding officers of corps be ordered to have all their men inspected by the medical officer of the battalion prior to marching out for active service or to camps of exercise.

The first six days after arrival was devoted to preliminary drill as follows:—

Cavalry.—Sword exercise, mounted and dismounted drill.

Artillery.—Foot drill and field battery movements.

Infantry.—Squad, company, skirmishing and battalion drill.

The hours for parade were—

Morning parade... from 6.30 to 7.30.

Forenoon " " 10.00 to 12.00.

Afternoon " " 3.00 to 5.00.

The different corps was also practised in guard mounting and dismounting, and posting sentries, a branch of their duty of which a great majority of the men were entirely ignorant, and for which the time at our disposal was insufficient to get them thoroughly posted.

On the 30th June I ordered the first brigade, parade and was much pleased at the

precision and promptitude with which the movements were performed, a large proportion of men having never taken part in a brigade parade before.

On the 1st July (Dominion Day) the brigade was paraded at eleven o'clock, and at noon a *feu de joie* was fired in honor of the day. In the afternoon I had purposed allowing the men half a holiday, as is customary on this day, but at the request of officers commanding corps I took the brigade for a march out in column of route, throwing out advanced and rear guards of cavalry.

On Thursday, the 2nd of July, the brigade was paraded for your inspection, and a very successful field day carried out under your direction.

I cannot conclude my remarks on drill without at least adverting to the inadequacy of the time in such short camps of exercise as those assembled for twelve days. The days occupied in assembling and returning with the intervening Sunday, cutting down the actual time spent in drill to nine days, and even less in the case of artillery. All this time should be spent in preliminary drill, and say five or six more in brigade exercises.

The target practice was carried out regimentally under the supervision of Ensign St. John, Brigade Musketry Instructor, and twenty rounds per man expended. For any efficient instruction in this important branch of a soldier's duty, I have to remark as above that the time allowed is altogether too short.

On Sunday, the 27th June, Devine service parades were ordered, and all the men marched to their several places of worship.

The Young Men's Christian Association opened and maintained a booth on the camp ground, where religious services were held in the evening, and the troops were supplied with newspapers, pens, ink, and paper free of charge.

The conduct of the men, with one or two exceptions, was excellent, and I learned with satisfaction from the residents of the town and neighbourhood that they considered the troops more than ordinarily well behaved.

In reference to the transport arrangements I heard no complaints, with the exception of the train which conveyed the 13th Battalion, which was delayed for five hours in the neighbourhood of Clifton, in a burning sun and without water. The natural advantages of the ordnance lands at Niagara for camp purposes is I think a fit subject for remark in this report. The climate is healthy, there is an abundance of excellent water, an expansive parade ground, capital shelter for cavalry and field battery horses, and rifle ranges not easily surpassed. Besides these natural advantages, there are many barrack buildings which can be utilized as hospitals, soldiers' quarters, mess and store houses, and prove invaluable to a camp of exercise. I would suggest that a small amount be expended annually to keep the buildings in repair, and would strongly urge that the ground and buildings be retained for military purposes.

In conclusion, I have to acknowledge the efficient manner in which the several members of my Brigade Staff performed their duties, especially mentioning Capt. Moore, Brigade Major, and Captain Boice, Supply Officer.

I have the honor to be, Sir,
 Your obedient servant,
 J. A. SKINNER, Lieut. Col.,
 Officer in Command of Brigade Camp
 at Niagara.

The Depy. Adjut. General,
 Military Dist. No. 2, Toronto.

[B.]

St. CATHARINE'S, 21st July, 1874.

Sir,—I have the honor to submit the nominal roll of those who made the highest scores in company and battalion of the Brigade Camp, Military District No. 2, assembled at Niagara for the annual drill of 1874-75.

The figure of merit of the brigade of 15-31; last camp it was 11.49; a very great improvement.

The best shooting company is No. 5 Company, 20th Battalion, with the average of 25.63, being slightly better than the highest company figure of merit (in the District) of last camp, which was 25.12, obtained by No. 5 Company, 38th Battalion.

The battalion having the highest figure of merit is the 20th Battalion, being 18.64; last year the best battalion of the Division obtained 17.62; a considerable increase. The best shot in the brigade is Private David Stock, of No. 2 Company, 77th Battalion, with the score of 60 points.

The figure of merit of the cavalry (2nd Regiment) is 17.77; the best shooting troop is the Grimsby Troop, with an average of 20.81; and the best shot in the regiment is Private W. Martindale, of the same troop, having scored 58 points.

The number of men who fired the required number of rounds is, Infantry, 1,183; Cavalry, 184.

Of the thirty seven making the highest scores, twenty one are non commissioned officers, being over 3 half.

I am glad to state that the suggestion of Major Dartnell, District Musketry Instructor for 1872, as to having but one marker in each butt, and having the markers permanently drawn from each battalion, was acted upon this year. I found it worked well, there being no complaints of inattention as during the previous camp.

The rules of firing were the same as those of last camp, and which seemed to give general satisfaction.

I approve of the "Hythe position" at 400 yards, notwithstanding it has been objected to in former reports, for skirmishers are often prevented from firing lying down by reason of the lowness of the ground, therefore are compelled to fire from the knee; consequently, in becoming accustomed to the Hythe position, it will not come amiss.

I am glad to state no accidents occurred. The weather was not wholly favorable to shooting, on account of the severe winds which prevailed.

Next camp at Niagara, I would advise the raising of targets Nos. 7 and 8.

In taking into consideration the marked improvement of the brigade shooting, it must be remembered that the 500 yards range was added to the ranges of last camp.

When it was definitely announced that there would be no prizes for those with the highest scores, I could not help but notice the disappointment expressed on the men's faces. If prizes are to be withheld, it will be found to have a prejudicial effect on the interest taken by the volunteers in rifle shooting.

I desire to here make mention of the valuable assistance rendered me by Staff Sergeant Dunford, of the Queen's Own Rifles.

I am, Sir,
 Your obedient servant,
 F. ST. JOHN, Ensign,
 Musketry Instructor:

[C.]

CAMP, HOLLAND LANDING,
 9th October, 1874.

Sir,—I have the honor to report that, as